

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

1-4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) A ~~COX-2 detecting~~ method, ~~for detecting colon cancer~~ comprising:

- a) homogenizing collected feces of a person in the presence of an RNase inhibitor to prepare a suspension thereof, without separating cell components from the feces;
- b) extracting RNA from the suspension from step a) to provide extracted RNA;
- c) carrying out reverse transcription on the extracted RNA from step b) to provide cDNA;
- d) amplifying the cDNA from step c); [[and]]
- e) detecting the expression level of COX-2 in the amplified cDNA COX-2 from step d),  
and  
f) determining that the person has colon cancer if COX-2 is expressed in the amplified cDNA.

6-16. (Cancelled)

17. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 5, wherein the feces is frozen.

18-21. (Cancelled)

22. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 5, wherein the feces is human feces.

23. (Cancelled)

24. (New) The method of claim 5, wherein the RNase inhibitor is a guanidine salt.

25. (New) The method of claim 5, wherein the RNA extracted in step (b) is total RNA including prokaryotic RNA and eukaryotic RNA.

26. (New) A method, comprising:

- a) homogenizing collected feces in the presence of an RNase inhibitor to prepare a suspension thereof, without separating cell components from the feces; and
- b) extracting total RNA from the suspension from step a) to provide extracted total RNA.

27. (New) The method of claim 26, further comprising:

- c) carrying out reverse transcription on the extracted total RNA from step b) to provide cDNA;
- d) amplifying the cDNA from step c); and
- e) detecting the amplified cDNA from step d).

28. (New) The method according to claim 26, wherein the feces is frozen.

29. (New) The method according to claim 26, wherein the feces is human feces.

30. (New) The method according to claim 26, wherein said RNase inhibitor is a guanidine salt.
31. (New) The method according to claim 27, wherein the feces is frozen.
32. (New) The method according to claim 27, wherein the feces is human feces.
33. (New) The method according to claim 27, wherein said RNase inhibitor is a guanidine salt.